



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000



23 FEB 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTOR, FORCE TRANSFORMATION
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Awareness Month – April 2006

National Sexual Assault Awareness Month is observed in April and is dedicated to making a concerted effort to raise awareness about and prevent sexual assaults. The Department's observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) 2006 provides an opportunity to further the numerous advances DoD has initiated to address this crime. Our SAAM 2006 theme is ***Sexual Assault Prevention Begins With You***. I ask for your personal support of SAAM activities, to continue emphasizing the unequivocal message that sexual assault has no place in the Department and that preventing it is every Service member's responsibility.

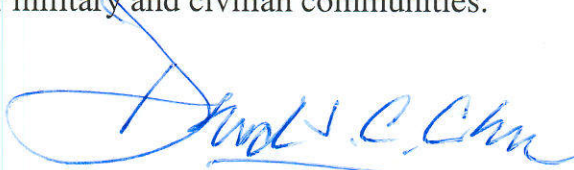
During the past year, we have worked closely with the Military Services to develop and implement Department-wide policies (available at www.sapr.mil) aimed at strengthening military readiness by preventing sexual assault, enhancing victim support, and improving total force accountability. These policies, especially restricted reporting, will remove many of the often-cited barriers to reporting a sexual assault. This is significant because sexual assault is the most under reported violent crime in our society.

Sweeping evaluations of and enhancements to training and education initiatives have been made to all levels of training from initial entry through professional military education. Essential training tasks have been developed for first response groups, such as



medical personnel, law enforcement and chaplains, to ensure consistency in the support services provided. In addition, Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates are in place to provide a coordinated response and support to victims of sexual assault.

These actions demonstrate the Department's commitment and resolve to reduce and ultimately eliminate sexual assault. With your continued leadership, these measures could serve as benchmarks for military and civilian communities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David S. C. Chu", with a large, stylized initial "D" and "C".

David S. C. Chu